CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1.   A method for facilitating customs planning and clearance, the method comprising
the steps of:

Creating in an international customs server, in response to a signal

communicated through a client device coupled for data

communications through at least one internet connection to the

10   international customs server, a customs planning record;

creating, in dependence upon the customs planning record, a customs

declaration form for a destination country; and

submitting the customs declaration form to a customs declaration forms

database for the destination country.

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2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the client device is a workstation in a kiosk at an
airport.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the client device is a workstation installed in the

20   back of a passenger chair in an airplane.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the client device is a personal computer.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein the client device is a hand-held personal data

25   administrator.

6.   The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one internet connection is wireless.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the customs planning record comprises customs data describing goods for import, the customs data including identification of an importer and of a destination country.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the international customs server is a software application installed and operating on one or more computers, the software application further comprising software routines storing and retrieving customs planning records, validating goods described in customs planning records against customs regulations stored in customs regulations databases, and submitting to customs databases declaration forms prepared in dependence upon the customs planning records.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein creating in dependence upon the customs planning record a customs declaration form for the destination country further comprises reading customs data from a customs planning record and inserting the read customs data into a declaration form.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein submitting the customs declaration form to a customs declaration forms database for the destination country further comprises communicating the form as electronic data communications through at least one internet connection.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising validating the goods described in a customs planning record.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein validating the customs planning records further comprises comparing the goods described by customs data in the customs planning record to customs regulations governing the goods described by the

customs data in the customs planning record and reporting to an importer through the client device a result of the comparison.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising storing the result of the comparison in
5   the customs planning record.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the customs planning record comprises a customs planning record form having a structure, wherein the structure of the customs planning record form is dependent upon customs regulations.

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15. A system for facilitating international customs planning and clearance, the system comprising:

    means for creating in an international customs server, in response to a signal communicated through a client device coupled for data

5   communications through at least one internet connection to the international customs server, a customs planning record;

    means for creating in dependence upon the customs planning record, a customs declaration form for the destination country; and

    means for submitting the customs declaration form to a customs declaration

10   forms database for the destination country.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the client device is a workstation in a kiosk at an airport.

15 17. The system of claim 15 wherein the client device is a workstation installed in the back of a passenger chair in an airplane.

18. The system of claim 15 wherein the client device is a personal computer.

20 19. The system of claim 15 wherein the client device is a hand-held personal data administrator.

20. The system of claim 15 wherein the at least one internet connection is wireless.

25 21. The system of claim 15 wherein the customs planning record comprises customs data describing goods for import, the customs data including identification of an importer and of a destination country.

22. The system of claim 15 wherein the international customs server is a software application installed and operating on one or more computers, the software application further comprising software routines storing and retrieving customs planning records, validating goods described in customs planning records against

5   customs regulations stored in customs regulations databases, and submitting to customs databases declaration forms prepared in dependence upon the customs planning records.

23. The system of claim 15 wherein means for creating in dependence upon the

10   customs planning record a customs declaration form for the destination country, further comprises means for reading customs data from a customs planning record and means for inserting the read customs data into a declaration form.

24. The system of claim 15 wherein means for submitting the customs declaration

15   form to a customs declaration forms database for the destination country further comprises means for communicating the form as electronic data communications through at least one internet connection.

25. The system of claim 15 further comprising means for validating the goods

20   described in a customs planning record.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein means for validating the customs planning records further comprises means for comparing the goods described by customs data in the customs planning record to customs regulations governing the goods

25   described by the customs data in the customs planning record and means for reporting to an importer through the client device a result of the comparison.

27. The system of claim 26 further comprising means for storing the result of the comparison in the customs planning record.

28. The system of claim 15 wherein the customs planning record comprises a customs planning record form having a structure, wherein the structure of the customs planning record form is dependent upon customs regulations.

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29. A computer program product for facilitating international customs planning and
clearance, the method comprising:

a recording medium;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for creating in an international

5   customs server, in response to a signal communicated through a client

device coupled for data communications through at least one internet

connection to the international customs server, a customs planning

record;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for creating in dependence upon

10   the customs planning record, a customs declaration form for the

destination country; and

means, recorded on the recording medium, for submitting the customs

declaration form to a customs declaration forms database for the

destination country.

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30. The product of claim 29 wherein the client device is a workstation in a kiosk at an
airport.

31. The product of claim 29 wherein the client device is a workstation installed in the
20   back of a passenger chair in an airplane.

32. The product of claim 29 wherein the client device is a personal computer.

33. The product of claim 29 wherein the client device is a hand-held personal data
25   administrator.

34. The product of claim 29 wherein the at least one internet connection is wireless.

35. The product of claim 29 wherein the customs planning record comprises customs data describing goods for import, the customs data including identification of an importer and of a destination country.

5   36. The product of claim 29 wherein the international customs server is a software application installed and operating on one or more computers, the software application further comprising software routines storing and retrieving customs planning records, validating goods described in customs planning records against customs regulations stored in customs regulations databases, and submitting to

10   customs databases declaration forms prepared in dependence upon the customs planning records.

37. The product of claim 29 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for creating in dependence upon the customs planning record a customs declaration

15   form for the destination country further comprises means for reading customs data from a customs planning record and means for inserting the read customs data into a declaration form.

38. The product of claim 29 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for

20   submitting the customs declaration form to a customs declaration forms database for the destination country further comprises means for communicating the form as electronic data communications through at least one internet connection.

39. The product of claim 29 further comprising means, recorded on the recording

25   medium, for validating the goods described in a customs planning record.

40. The product of claim 39 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for validating the customs planning records further comprises means for comparing

the goods described by customs data in the customs planning record to customs
regulations governing the goods described by the customs data in the customs
planning record and means for reporting to an importer through the client device a
result of the comparison.

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41. The product of claim 40 further comprising means, recorded on the recording
medium, for storing the result of the comparison in the customs planning record.

42. The product of claim 29 wherein the customs planning record comprises a
10   customs planning record form having a structure, wherein the structure of the
customs planning record form is dependent upon customs regulations.

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